OUR STATE CAPITOL

ILLUSTRATED

F73.8
S809

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OUR STATE CAPITOL ILLUSTRATED.

About every State Capitol cluster unusual associations. This is, in a peculiar sense, the fountain head of the State government. The pulse of the people beats through the legislative arteries that center here. Each hall, each room has its own special and significant memories. This volume is intended to represent these halls to the eye, these rooms to the sight, while with some is given a brief statement of the especial relation it may have borne to the historic interest attaching to the Capitol as a whole. And yet, after all, only the mere outline is here given, a mere suggestion; the wealth of sentiment associated with these halls must be clothed upon this outline only by those who feel it from within. The heart that knows it not will never catch the inspiration from this representation of mere form and shape, a mere collection of brick, mortar and stone regularly arranged. And to those who already know the legend of this hall, the story of that room, who again hear the eloquent echoes of the past sounding through them all, even this representation is of but secondary importance.

And yet, even in such a volume as this there are many facts of common interest, and the most important of them are given herewith.

The present State House was erected in 1795-7, upon land purchased of the heirs of John Hancock, by the town of Boston, for the sum of £4,000, and conveyed by said town to the Commonwealth, May 2, 1795. The Commissioners on the part of the town to convey the "Governor's Pasture," as it was styled, to the Commonwealth, were William Tudor, Charles Jarvis, John Coffin Jones, William Eustis, William Little, Thomas Dawes, Joseph Russell, Harrison Gray Otis and Perez Morton. The agents for erecting the State House were named in the deed as follows: Thomas Dawes, Edward Hutchinson Robbins and Charles Bulfinch. The architect was Charles Bulfinch, who also designed the National Capitol at Washington, D. C.

The corner-stone was laid July 4, 1795, by Governor Samuel Adams, assisted by Paul Revere, Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons. The stone was drawn to the spot by fifteen white horses, representing the number of States of the Union at that time. The building is 173 feet front; the height, including dome, is 110 feet, and the foundation is about that height above the waters of the bay. The dome is 53 feet in diameter and 35 feet high. The original cost of the building was estimated at $133,333.33.

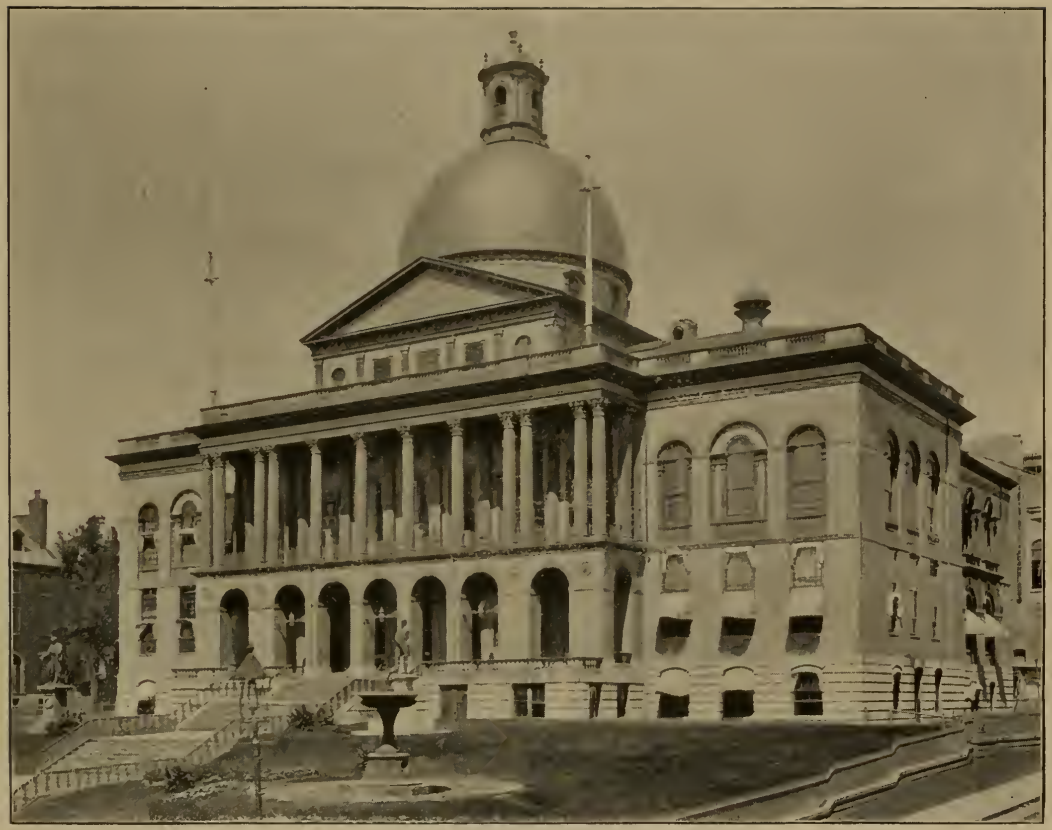
By action of the Legislature of 1867, the interior of the building was almost entirely reconstructed at an expense, including furniture, of about $250,000. In 1868, the Senate chamber and hall of the House were reseated, at an expense of about $6,000. In 1881, the basement was improved so that numerous office rooms and other accommodations were obtained. In 1885, a passenger elevator was put in each wing. In 1888, the first steps were taken toward the "State House Extension," by the taking of the necessary land for the site. In 1889, a bill was passed providing for the construction of this "Extension" by three commissioners at an expense of not over $2,500,000. Messrs. John D. Long, William Endicott, Jr., and Benjamin D. Whitcomb were appointed commissioners. Messrs. Brigham & Spofford, of Boston, were selected as architects, and continued in charge of the work until their dissolution in March, 1892, since which time Mr. Charles Brigham, senior member of the former firm, has been in charge of the work. Governor Ames laid the corner-stone of the new edifice with appropriate ceremonies, December 21, 1889.

The chief objects of interest in and about the State House are as follows: — The colors of the Regiments and Batteries of Massachusetts which served during the war of the Rebellion, and which are placed in Doric Hall; the statue of Washington, and in front thereof fac-similes of the memorial stones of the Washington family in the parish church at Brington, England; the statue of Webster, by Powers, on the east of the main entrance; and the statue of Horace Mann, by Miss Stebbins, on the west. In the Senate chamber are portraits of many of the former Governors of the State and Colony; also, several interesting relics of the War of the Revolution.

Under the clock opposite the desk of the Speaker of the House is the famous "Codfish," which was presented by Mr. John Rowe, then a member from Boston, March 17, 1784, to symbolize the important part then taken by the cod fishery in the industries of Massachusetts.

In the following representations of the interior, the spectator is asked to enter by the main entrance and then to visit the rooms on the west wing in order; then to descend to Doric Hall and, in similar manner, visit the rooms in the east wing, beginning on his right.

A. M. BRIDGMAN, *Editor.*



THE STATE HOUSE.

DORIC HALL.

This hall has seen varied gatherings, but none of greater interest than that of April 17, 1861. On that day, the first volunteer company of the whole country, during the late War of the Rebellion, assembled here, chose its officers, received overcoats from the government and in an hour and a half from the time of assembling was on its way to the front. The story, in more detail, is as follows: In Cambridge, in 1860, had been formed a company of "Wide Awakes" to help elect President Lincoln. Hon. J. M. S. Williams, congressman from that district, promised them that if they would keep up their organization they could go to Washington to see Lincoln inaugurated. But the United States government forbade the assembling of such bodies at the national capital. During the dark days of February, 1861, several of the company agreed to volunteer if they were needed, and, on the 14th of February, several of them signed an agreement to that effect. First on the list was the name of John Kinnear, now assistant door-keeper of the House. In the first week in March, he, with a few others, visited the State House and personally tendered their services to Governor Andrew. He advised them that there was no immediate need of their services and that they return to Cambridge, whence he would summon them if necessary. Then came the news of the breaking out of rebellion. They at once visited the State House, finding the Governor and Council in session. Governor Andrew told them to return to Cambridge and that they would receive orders in an hour. They returned and the orders speedily reached them. Then, again, they hastened to the State House, many of their members leaving their work and throwing their tools into the street. Reaching the State House, they assembled in Doric Hall, ninety-seven of them. In a small adjoining room they chose officers, electing James Prentice Richardson, now of Texas, as captain. They first went to the Old Colony station, but were soon ordered to the "S. R. Spaulding," where they embarked for Fortress Monroe. They were first assigned to the Fifth regiment, but were soon transferred to the Third, becoming Company C. This was, without doubt, the first volunteer company of the late war. It is a matter of history that this prompt, loyal and general response of this company, in contrast with the scattering returns from more pretentious organizations, did much to encourage the State authorities and "the great war Governor."

In this hall lay, in state, the body of Charles Sumner, Sunday, March 15, 1874, where it was viewed by a multitude as vast as time would allow.

In this hall gathered the "Army of the Unemployed," February 20, 1894, whence they were removed by detachments of the district and Boston police, but without violence. They had just been addressed on the Capitol steps by Governor Greenhalge.

This view is taken from the main entrance. In the distance are the cannon commemorative of the battles of Lexington and Concord, the battle flags of the Rebellion and, in the midst of all, the statue of Washington.

FROM DORIC HALL LOOKING TO WESTERN STAIRWAY.
Bust of Lincoln on the left; bust of Washington and Ball's statue of Governor Andrew on the right.

ROOM D.—COMMITTEES ON MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ON STATE HOUSE.

ROOM OF THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF.

THE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

The drum in the center was carried at the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775, by William Dimon. Underneath it, in the frame, is a photograph of a letter indicating that John Hancock was manifesting his independent and patriotic spirit some time before he affixed his name to the Declaration of Independence. It is as follows: — "Salem, Aug. 1st, 1774. Sir, I am directed by His Excellency the Captain General to acquaint you that he has no further service for you as Captain of the Governor's Company of Cadets, and you are hereby dismissed from the command. I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant, Thos. Fletcher, Sec. To the Hon. Mr. Hancock." On the other side of the drum in view is a very similar one that was carried at the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, by Thomas Scott.

PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

ROOM OF PENSION RECORDS.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

In this room are the charters of the "Colony of Massachusetts Bay" and of the "Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England." The Colony charter, which is dated March 4, 1628, and was brought over in 1630 by John Winthrop, is not seen in the picture. It is in four rolls, each about thirty inches long, and appended to it is the great seal of England. The Province charter is seen in the picture upon the wall nearest the desk. This was granted by William and Mary in 1691, and was brought over by Sir William Pitt in 1692. It is comprised of five rolls of parchment, beautifully engrossed and with an elaborately engraved border. Further along on the same wall is the explanatory charter, so called, granted by King George in 1726. This is on a single sheet of parchment, to which is appended the great seal.

The portrait over the desk is that of Hon. Henry B. Peirce, Secretary of State, 1876-1890.

ROOM OF THE RECORDS OF CORPORATIONS.

ROOM OF THE STATE ARCHIVES.

ROOM A. — COMMITTEES ON MANUFACTURES, AND ON PUBLIC CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

ROOM B.—COMMITTEE ON PROBATE AND INSOLVENCY.

ROOM NO. 8.—COMMITTEES ON HOUSE JUDICIARY AND ON JOINT JUDICIARY.

ROOM NO. 10.—COMMITTEE ON RAILROADS.

In this room were usually fought the great railroad contests of the State, between opposing counsel, until the general railroad law of 1872 did away with most of them.

ROOM OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

ANTE-ROOM OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

THE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

Three of these flags were the regimental colors of the old Sixth Massachusetts, the other, surmounted by an eagle, was the gift to Massachusetts of three hundred citizens of Baltimore.

The portrait beneath the flags is that of the famous "war Governor" of Massachusetts, John A. Andrew.

"THIS DRUM

Was carried and beat by Henry J. White, a drummer in Co. 1 when the 6th Regt. Mass. Vol. Mil. marched through Baltimore on the 19th of April, 1861. At nearly eighty years of age, having been a drummer in the Massachusetts militia sixty-seven years, he came, Nov. 17, 1882, from Haverhill to the State House and presented it to the Governor to be hung in the executive chamber with the flags of the 6th Regt."

"This musket was carried by

CHARLES A. TAYLOR,

Co. D, Sixth Mass. Inf., who fell in the march through Baltimore, April 19, 1861. It had been fired and the ramrod was lost, probably while reloading. It was found in an adjacent house, given to Wilson post 1, G. A. R., of Baltimore, who presented it to the 6th Regiment Association. At Lowell, April 19, 1881, the Association presented it to the State, and His Excellency Gov. Long received it in the following words: —

'I thank the Association for this gift through me to the Commonwealth. I will hang it in the executive chamber. Ladd and Whitney have their monument here; Needham lies in the beautiful cemetery at Lawrence; Taylor, who joined the regiment at Boston, just on the eve of its departure, his residence untold, his friends unnamed, now sleeping in an unknown grave and having no monument hitherto shall have one now in this musket which he carried, and which shall henceforth adorn the walls of the Governor's room. And it will typify, also, that for which Massachusetts always stands — the equality and equal recognition of her sons. No soldier of hers is so humble, so friendless, so neglected, that his name is not still held in honor, his memory kept, and his services gratefully acknowledged.'"

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

At meetings of the Council, the Governor presides, sitting in the raised chair, with the Lieutenant Governor at his right.

ROOM OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR.

ROOM IN WHICH PETITIONS FOR PARDONS ARE HEARD BY THE COMMITTEE ON PARDONS OF THE COUNCIL.

ROOM NO. 12. — COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, AND ON PRINTING.

STATE LIBRARY.

In the distance, Portrait of Charles Sumner over entrance to room of Secretary of Board of Education.
Bust of Ex-Governor Long on the left. Committee on libraries meets here.

ROOM OF THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

This is just west of the library. The bust on the right is that of Rev. Charles Brooks, of Medford, who was, more than any other one, perhaps, the founder of our present normal school system, in the period from 1835 to 1840.

ROOM NO. 13. — COMMITTEES ON BANKS AND BANKING, AND ON DRAINAGE.

ROOM NO. 14. — COMMITTEES ON CITIES, AND ON WATER SUPPLY.

ROOM NO. 15. — COMMITTEES ON TAXATION, AND ON ELECTION LAWS.

ROOM NO. 16. — COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ON HOUSE ELECTIONS.

THE GREEN ROOM.

In this room have been held many famous meetings connected with legislation. The principal party caucuses here have gathered. Here have been held the great majority of the hearings on the woman suffrage and temperance questions, and here have been heard many of the leading speakers of the land upon these topics.

The many legislative investigations of recent years have here been conducted. Among them may be mentioned the Tewksbury investigation, under Governor Butler's personal direction, in 1883; that into alleged bribery in connection with water gas legislation, in 1884; the charges in connection with the sale of the State's interest in the New York & New England railroad, and the appointment of a receiver, in 1884; that into alleged bribery in connection with the bill to incorporate the town of Beverly Farms, in 1887; and into alleged improper influence upon legislation in connection with the charter for an elevated railroad for the West End Company, in 1890; the charges against the Bay State Gas Company, in 1893; and the investigation by the joint special committee on the condition of the unemployed, in 1894.

The "horse-shoe" table in the distance, about which the committees sit, was used by the Governor's council when that body had ten members instead of eight as at present.

ROOM NO. 18. — COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE, AND ON PUBLIC SERVICE.

NEAR VIEW OF FLAGS IN DORIC HALL, HISTORICAL CANNON AND STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.

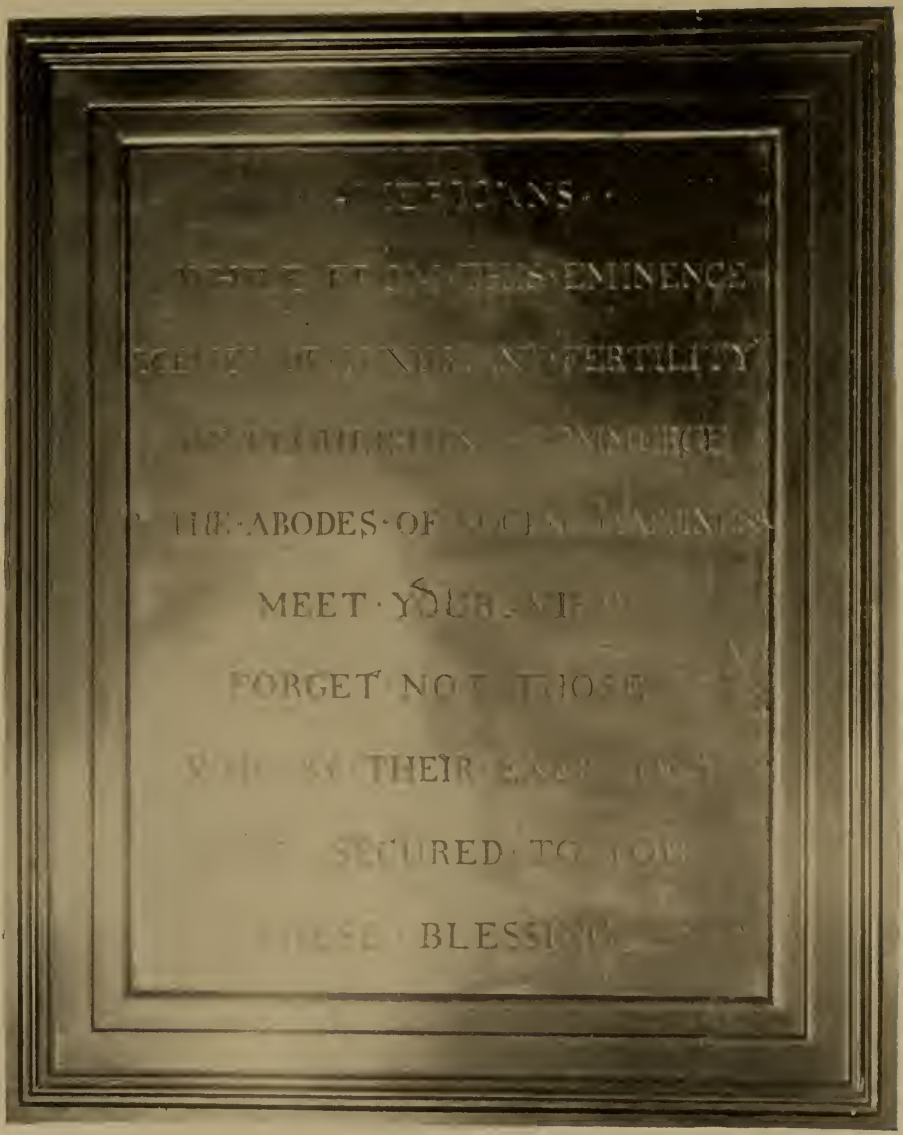
On the left, picture of Col. O. F. Mitchell, 1875–85; on the right, Col. John Morrissey, 1859–74.

ROOM OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, EXPENDITURES AND PAY ROLL.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR.

PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR.

AID.


MEET YOUR
FORGET NOT THOSE
SECURED TO YOU

THE STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE.

PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER.

LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENT ROOM.

COAT ROOM OF THE HOUSE.

THE LEGISLATIVE POST OFFICE.

HOUSE READING AND SMOKING ROOM.

ROOM OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In this room the Governors and Lieutenant Governors are always inaugurated, and here are held all joint conventions of the Senate and House for the choice of United States senators, etc. Among its famous visitors have been President Grant, Vice-President Wilson, Secretary Belknap, Secretary Robeson, Secretary Delano and Postmaster General Jewell, Monday, April 19, 1875, when they were given a reception by the House. The same guests were also received by the Senate on the same day. Kit Carson was received here but a short time before his death.

Queen Kapiolani, of Hawaii, was tendered a reception by the House in 1887. She was accompanied by Gen. Dominis, her husband, Princess Liliuokalani, who afterwards became queen, and other distinguished guests.

Ex-President R. B. Hayes presided over the prison convention held here in 1888. In 1853 the last constitutional convention in the State was held here, and among its members was Daniel Webster.

NEAR VIEW OF SPEAKER'S AND CLERK'S DESKS AND REPORTERS' GALLERY.

VIEW FROM REPORTERS' GALLERY OF HOUSE, SHOWING THE FAMOUS CODFISH IN THE DISTANCE.

LOBBY BETWEEN SENATE AND HOUSE.

THE SENATE CHAMBER.

The musket on the left bears this inscription:—"The first Firearm captured in the War for Independence." The musket on the right is thus inscribed:—"This Firearm was used by Capt. John Parker at the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775. The drum, sword of an infantry officer, Hessian helmet and musket are trophies of the battle of Bennington, as the document framed below testifies, as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

SIR: Boston, December 5, 1777.

The General Assembly of this State take the earliest opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable present — the tokens of victory gained at the memorable battle of Bennington. The events of that day strongly mark the bravery of the men, who, unskilled in war, forced from their intrenchments a chosen number of veteran troops of boasted Britons; as well as the address and valor of the General who directed their movements and led them on to conquest. This signal exploit opened the way to a rapid succession of advantages most important to America. These trophies shall be safely deposited in the archives of the State, and there remind posterity of the irresistible power of the GOD of Armies, and the honors due to the memory of the brave. Still attended with like Success, may you long enjoy the rewards of your grateful Country.

BRIGADIER GENL JOHN STARK. JEREMIAH POWELL, *Presdt of the Council.*

SENATE CLOAK AND READING ROOM.

ROOM OF THE CLERK OF THE SENATE.

ROOM OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

ROOM NO. 2.—SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

ROOM NO. 3.—COMMITTEES ON FISHERIES AND GAME, AND ON INSURANCE.

ROOM NO. 4. — COMMITTEES ON HARBORS AND PUBLIC LANDS, AND ON STREET RAILWAYS.

ROOM NO. 5.—COMMITTEES ON MERCANTILE AFFAIRS, AND ON PRISONS.

ROOM NO. 6. — COMMITTEES ON ROADS AND BRIDGES, ON COUNTY ESTIMATES, AND ON FEDERAL RELATIONS.

ROOM NO. 7. — COMMITTEES ON PARISHES AND RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES, AND ON TREASURY.

BLUE ROOM, COMMITTEES ON TOWNS, AND ON LABOR.

It is also used for large hearings on other subjects, when the Green room is not available, and for caucuses if the Green Room is in use at the same time.

ROOM OF THE MESSENGERS OF THE HOUSE.

ROOM OF THE MESSENGERS OF THE SENATE.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM.

OFFICE OF THE TAX COMMISSIONER.

ROOM OF THE STATE BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS.

ROOM OF STATE BOARD OF LUNACY AND CHARITY.

THE ENGINE ROOM.

RESTAURANT.

Situated under the main entrance of the State House, and in it legislators, commissioners, and the general public have satisfied "the inner man."

VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA TO THE WEST.

VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA TO THE NORTH.

VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA TO THE EAST.

VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA TO THE SOUTH.

THE OLD STATE HOUSE.

Built in 1748, on site of burned town hall, at the head of State Street, Boston.

In the foreground occurred the Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770. Been used as State House, City Hall, and Post Office. British troops quartered here, 1768, and General Gage held council of war here before battle of Bunker Hill. Declaration of Independence read from balcony in view; from other end Washington reviewed procession in 1789. Here State Constitution planned and ratified. William Lloyd Garrison took refuge here from mob, October, 1835, it being then used for City Hall.

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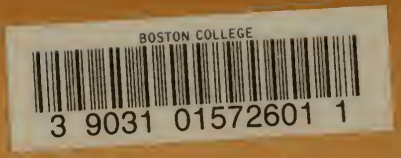

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